

GITXSAN SUMMIT



2010



GITXSAN SUMMIT



It's Time to Wear Our Blankets



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Gitxsan Summit 2010

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Wii Eelast

Jim Angus **Chair of the Board of Directors**

Since I started my part-time position as a member of the communication team, I have met with most of our chiefs. I have also been in discussion with the staff. We have done some work with CFNR, both in Gitksanimx and in English, to express the authority of the "blanket."

The adawak from each house expresses our ownership and jurisdiction over the 33,000 square kilometres of Gitksan lax yip. We expressed our authority over Gitksan lax yip in our declaration of November 7, 1977. We've expressed it in the courts over the years all the way through to the Supreme Court of Canada. The authority of the blanket has not changed. Even today, it is still our foundation at the treaty negotiation table. We will not change. This is what the Crown calls the Alternative Governance Model.

My challenge to our Chiefs is to teach ALL Gitksan our system. Each House Member must know their house adawak. There are still those who do not. Every one of us should know what it means when someone says: "It is time to wear our blankets," just as we should know what it means "to dirty your blanket." Gitksan Chiefs, there is still much work to be done. This is my challenge to you. Let us work together!

Listen to the Gitksan chiefs' message at

EVERY ONE OF US SHOULD KNOW WHAT IT MEANS
WHEN SOMEONE SAYS: "IT IS TIME TO WEAR OUR
BLANKETS," JUST AS WE SHOULD KNOW WHAT IT
MEANS "TO DIRTY YOUR BLANKET."

www.gitxsan.com/community.html



Agenda

Gitxsan Summit 2010

Day One Wednesday October 20, 2010

- | | | | |
|--------------|---|--------------|---|
| 8:30 | Registration | 11:30 | Message from the Gaayuhadiit
-WII EELAST (Jim Angus) |
| 9:00 | Official Opening of the Summit - Miluulak
(Alice Jeffrey) & Nikateen (France Sampson) | 12:00 | Lunch Break |
| | Opening Prayer - | | Keynote Speaker: Bill Lomax , Wilps Luus |
| | Introduction of the Chairpersons: Niis Noolth
(Ray Jones) & Skanu'u (Ardyth Wilson) | 1:00 | Gitxsan Treaty Negotiations Update
- Yoobx (Elmer Derrick), Chief Negotiator
- Gwaans (Beverley Clifton Percival), Negotiator
- Luukwidziwuus (Gordon Sebastian),
Executive Director |
| 10:00 | Opening Remarks from the Huwilp Gali Aaks
- Lax Seel / Ganeda
- Giskaast
- Lax Gibuu
- Lax Skiik | 2:30 | Gisgegaas Update:
Oo'Yee (Cliff Sampare) & Miluulak (Alice Jeffrey) |
| | Nutrition Break | 3:00 | Nutrition Break |
| | | 4:30 | Closing Prayer |



Day Two Thursday October 21, 2010

9:00	Opening Prayer Recap of Day 1: Chairpersons	1:45	Herb George First Nations Governance
9:15	Suskwa Watershed - Team members	2:30	Nutrition Break
10:00	Nutrition Break	2:45	Coastal First Nations - Art Sterritt
10:30	Gitsegukla Watershed - Simgigyet and Facilitator	3:30	Northwest Transmission Line - Tenimgyet (Art Mathews) & Staff
11:00	Gitxsan Development Corporation - Rick Connors	4:00	Closing Prayer
11:30	GFEI - Cameron Stevens, Director of Forestry	5:00	Banquet M.C. for the Evening: Julie Morrison Honoring of Miluulak (Alice Jeffrey) Recognition of Yoobx (Elmer Derrick)
12:00	Lunch Break Keynote Speaker: Julie Morrison Northwest Community College		
1:00	Ministry of Small Business - Ted Williams		



Day Three Friday October 22, 2010

9:00	Opening Prayer	2:45	Closing Remarks
9:05	Recap of Day II: Chairpersons		Official Closing of the 2010 Gitxsan Summit
9:15	Audit Report Edmison & Mah		Final Door Prize! (All Gitxsan persons in attendance of 3 days are eligible for the draw)
10:30	Nutrition Break		
11:00	Special Guest		Thank You To Our Chairs For The 2010 Gitxsan Summit Niis Noolth (Ray Jones) & Skanu'u (Ardyth Wilson)
12:00	Lunch Break		
	Keynote Speaker: Yoobx (Elmer Derrick)		
1:00	Wrap-up of 2010 Gitxsan Summit		

*We are given aatxyasxw by the Creator which
are tools for our earthly journey. These are
intuition, inner knowing and visions.*

Hanamuxw (Joan Ryan)



Gitxsan Treaty Society Board of Directors

Back Row (left to right)

Simadiiks - Calvin Hyzims

Miin Galdip Diida - Walter Wilson

Saa Loop - Terry Jack

Wiya Mukxw - Jack Sebastian

Dawamuxw - Larry Patsey

Luus - Roy Wilson

Tenimgyet - Art Mathews

Front Row (left to right)

Kee'yu - Beatrice Rabocz

Wii Eelast - James Angus

Axdi Na Haap - Sonny Derrick

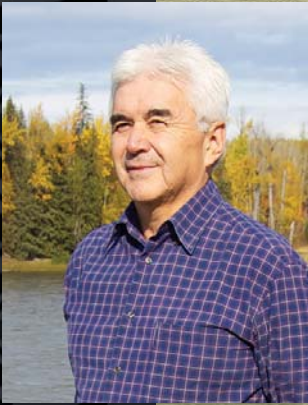
Axgigii' ii - Sadie Mowatt

There should always be a flaw in the blanket so future generations can have something to mend.

A Gitxsan Saying



Daxgyathl Gwíla - The strength of our Blankets



Luutkudziiwus

Gordon Sebastian **Executive Director**

The Gitxsan are known to be businesslike, development-oriented people. Our traditional territories, full of natural resources and worth billions of dollars, encompass 33,000 square kilometres. This area is divided into nine watershed units to facilitate administration and economic development. Each watershed unit is made up of 4 to 10 head chiefs with full decision-making powers regarding their lax yip.

Rebuilding the Gitxsan Economy

One tool for rebuilding the economy is the successful lawsuit against MOF [Yal et al v. MOF (forest license)]. In their decision, the courts recognized that the Gitxsan Hereditary Chiefs have a strong claim of rights and a good claim of title over the 33,000 square kilometres of territory. How this is implemented will have a major impact on our local economy.

In the past four to five years we have been developing a process for managing our assets and money. Firstly, we established a financial accounting system that is trustworthy. Secondly, we established infrastructure for governance, accountability and transparency (Gimlitxwit and GTS). Thirdly, we established infrastructure reconciling the Gitxsan hereditary system with federal and provincial

We must nurture ideas that will come from you, our new entrepreneurs. It is our central mission as Gitxsan and my central responsibility as a Simogyat.

governance. Lastly, we are in the process of re-establishing the Gitxsan Chiefs as decision-makers on the lax yip and participants in the economy. One view on how to achieve this is to partner with the government ministries of BC and Canada.

- 1. **Establish a financial accounting system that is trustworthy.** No business can function without financial records. We hired Vandergaag and Bakker, Chartered Accountants from Smithers, to prepare our monthly financial records of income and expenditures. As a result, we know each month where we are financially in terms of our yearly budget. This allows us to forecast where we will stand at the end of the year, with the ultimate goal of ending up with a “zero” on March 31 of each fiscal year.*


The purpose of ending up with a “zero” is two-fold. First, we wish to avoid a deficit, as this would mean the next fiscal year would begin in the negative. This is unrecoverable given that our yearly budgets are very tight. Secondly, we wish to avoid a surplus of funds. This also has a negative effect because both governments will deduct the surplus amounts from the next fiscal year’s budget.

Yearly audits are done within three months of March 31 of each year (by July). Edmison Mehr Chartered Accountants audit our books and report to GTS membership (26 members). Our GTS accountants do our yearly financial reporting to Gitxsan membership on the final day of the Gitxsan Summit. In addition GTS books are audited a second time each year by another firm of Chartered Accountants in Vancouver on behalf of the BC Treaty Commission.

- 2. **Establish Infrastructure for governance, accountability and transparency.** A proper infrastructure for governance is very important. The Gitxsan hereditary chiefs, representing the wilp, are the governing body for 13,000 Gitxsan people and 33,000 square kilometres of lax yip. Cont’d.*

*The strength is the manner in which this is implemented
– how your ideas are to strengthen our economy.*





These chiefs established the Gitxsan Treaty Society (GTS), with its own constitution and bylaws, for the sole purpose of negotiating a treaty (This society is authorized by provincial legislation, Society Act).

The GTS constitution provides that there be three directors appointed from each of the four clans - Fireweed, Wolf, Eagle and Frog - totaling 12 directors. The chairperson is then chosen by the directors from the community at large. As a result, each director is accountable to the hereditary chiefs of their respective clan.

Pursuant to the Contribution Agreement, the GTS directors are also accountable for the money loaned to the GTS from the BC Treaty Commission (BCTC). In February of each year, a yearly budget and work plan is established and approved by the board in the amount of \$2.2 million per year. The GTS budget, work plan and audits are reviewed and approved yearly by the BCTC before they release any funds to the GTS for the next fiscal year.


- 3. **Establish Infrastructure reconciling Gitxsan hereditary system with federal and provincial governance.** For reconciliatory purposes with both governments, the Gitxsan hereditary chiefs added a new structure, the Gimlitxwit. This is a forum of head chiefs who conduct themselves according to the ayookw and are accountable to 13,000 Gitxsan persons, rather than just their individual wilp. The Gimlitxwit meets regularly to make decisions on all issues raised by both governments that affect the Gitxsan people. The chiefs meet yearly in Prince George to (1) plan how they'll work together and (2) establish and update yearly plans for development and sustainability of resources on the 33,000 square kilometres of territory. They have identified benefits for individual persons, each wilp, each of the nine watersheds and for the Gitxsan as a whole.*

It is necessary that we develop a process



for managing our assets and money.





A yearly Gitksan Summit hosted each fall by a different Gitksan galtsup, is focused on celebrating the year's work and features presentations by proponents of large projects in various watersheds. For example, the Suskwa Power Project (\$155 million), the Northwest Transmission Line (\$600 million), Enbridge Northern Gateway Project (pipeline), Gitksan Forest Enterprises Inc (\$6 million operation), and various Gitksan investment projects – each present reports to the chiefs and wilp membership.

*In the past year, the chiefs are now exercising their abilities as businesslike, development-oriented people. Their plan is to set up a **Gitksan Development Corporation**. It will be structured around a small group of directors with a Shareholder Agreement that provides for the ownership of shares by individuals, huwilp, watersheds and the Gitksan as a whole. (Another possibility is a system of trusts for each to hold the shares.)*

- 4. **Re-establishing Gitksan head chiefs as decision-makers and partners in the economic development of the lax yip, 33,000 square kilometres of territory.** Since 2002 the law requires that government-approved activity must accommodate the interests of the Gitksan hereditary system as title holders of the lax yip and the resources.*

The Gitksan have an inescapable economic interest that cannot be overlooked when harvesting minerals or trees, or when setting up any type of development on Gitksan lax yip.

They have identified benefits for individual persons, each wilp


The government signed the Short Term Forest Agreement (STFA) for a 5 year term: 2006 to 2011. It provides \$2.6 million per year for a total of \$13 million over 5 years. In this agreement, the government recognizes the wilp and the lax yip (totaling 33,000 square kilometres) as claimed by the Gitxsan hereditary system. In addition 1.2 million m³ of fibre is available should we apply for a license. The financial accounting system above was set up for the STFA and will remain in place for the Long Term Forest Agreement (LTFA).

Thus far, the Gitxsan have invested in the following for the Gitxsan as a whole:

1. \$1 million into **Black Goose** (Delga goka Corporation) - This is an oil and gas exploration company that has many assets. It is presently seeking to generate outside investment.
2. \$1 million into purchasing a major forest license formerly held by New Skeena Forest Products and now owned by Gitxsan **Forest Enterprises Inc.** (GFEI). Specifically, this is a renewable 387,000 m³ forest license. The Gitxsan Hereditary Chiefs are the shareholders of the license. (Investments to date total approximately \$3 million)
3. **New Hazelton Plaza** - \$600,000 (\$1.5 million for store equipment). The purpose of this investment is to attract a major food store to our communities capable of supplying feasts, weddings, birthday parties and camps.
4. Carbon Credits - Silviculture liabilities
5. **TransAlt Power Company**

in the nine watersheds and for the Gitxsan as a whole.





Individual watersheds have the following projects:

1. ***Suskwa Power Project*** - This is an initiative by the Suskwa Watershed chiefs and Run of River Power to build a \$155 million project that would include a plant, fibre supply, and a possible contract with BC Hydro. (Investments by the Suskwa Chiefs Economic Corp. total over \$.5 million)
2. ***Northwest Transmission Line*** - BC Hydro plans to extend a large power line from Terrace to Bob Quinn on Highway 37. It is a \$600 million project involving at least 4 house groups – Lower Skeena Watershed and Nass Watershed. At this point there is a CEEA project employing a few Gitksan doing Watershed studies, including Traditional Use Studies (TUS) by the wilp on the lax yip.
3. ***Enbridge Northern Gateway Project (pipeline)*** - This is a major oil company project building a pipeline from the tar sands to the port at Kitimat. The pipeline has the potential to affect three watersheds and if there is a spill the potential damage could affect water and fish habitats in five watersheds.
4. ***Suskwa Sustainability Project*** (\$1 million over two years)
5. ***Seabridge Gold*** - Skii km Lax Ha and Gitksan Golf have good relationship and a record of job creation.
6. ***Fortune Coal*** – accommodation of Gitksan interests.
7. ***Cascadero Power Project*** - (Thutade Lake – Finlay River) \$160 million project to provide hydro power to many mining properties.

Summary

The big questions are: "What would we do if we make a few million dollars today?" and "Now that we have legal recognition of our rights and title in the resources how do we manage them?"

*The planning sessions in the past five years have led to the establishing of the **Gitxsan Development Corporation**. The purpose of this corporation is to manage our assets and money. In partnership with our consultants and lawyers, we are deciding how best to set up the shareholders agreements to allow for the chiefs and the wilp to own the corporation, and for the house members to benefit from it.*

As Simgiigyet we will be seeking a CEO with strong business qualities, directors that are highly bankable and shareholders that have ownership and a sense of pride in the corporation and the lands and resources alike.



Michelle
Stoney





Share

Luutkudziiwus **Gordon Sebastian**

There is one thing that is common to every individual Gitksan, every marriage, every family (wilnadahl), every Gitksan organization, and to all Gitksan people – that has kept us together for many years. This one thing has the potential to create unparalleled success and prosperity in every dimension of Gitksan life – especially on the lax yip. That one thing is the sharing.

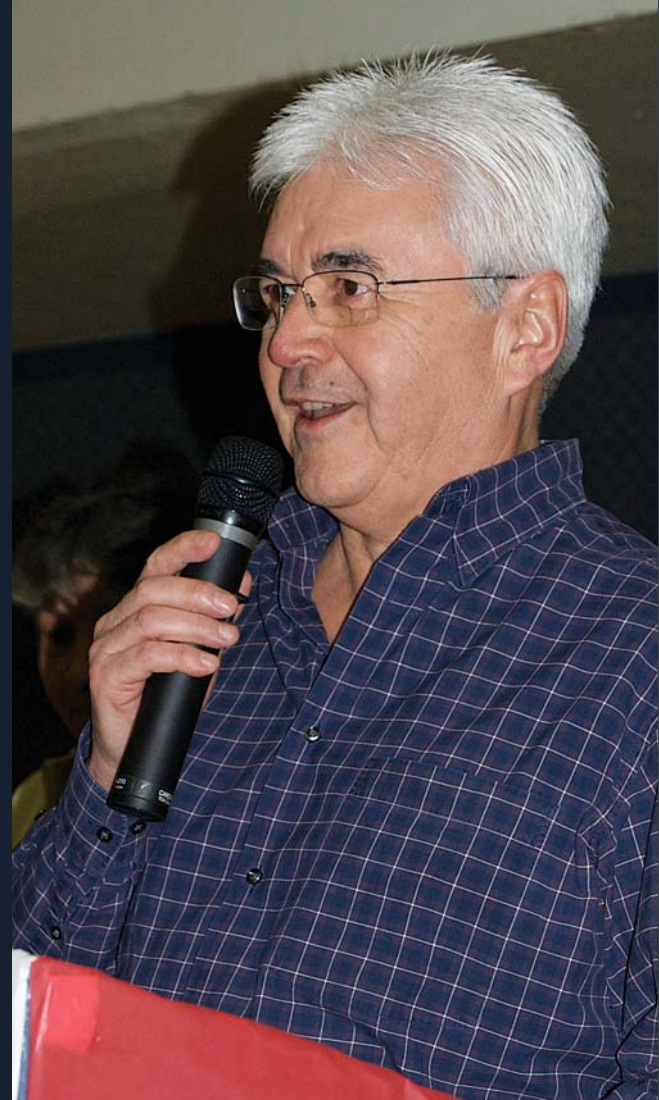
Sharing is the one aspect of our lives that we can do something about in our wilp, and we do – everyday! Everyone knows their role within wilp business and where we fit in. Our business of sharing is founded on the strength of our money, our food and our goods (including tools, fishing sites and lax yip). The money that is put into the “pot” indicates our investment, to pay expenses and to share within the feast.

The Feast, liligit, is the final day in the process of business management by Gitksan people. The Simogyat could not hold a liligit without his wilnadahl, his niigwot, and the rest of his clan, pdeek. Even the person without means takes part by serving and helping out at the liligit. Thus, even a person without means is recognized and cared for in the business management of the wilp.

Gitksan teachings expect those with a set of skills

The host family will have spent months buying goods worth hundreds of dollars to share at the feast. The main players in the wilnadahl, Simogyat and Sigidimhanak would have saved hundreds and thousands of dollars to share. (The last feast I attended the family shared a total of \$94,000 including cash, goods and food at the Spookw feast.) Family members plan the type of food to bring to the feast - many pick berries, harvest salmon and trade with our neighbors on the coast preparing for this day. This is grass-roots sharing that occurred regularly for 10,000 years!

This sharing process of the Gitxsan will be woven into the corporate structure of the Gitxsan Development Corporation. The Simgiigyet have been planning this for years. You will know where you fit in and if you are not confident of your wilp, ask any Simogyat.



to share their knowledge with the people around them.

Hanamuxw (Joan Ryan)



Yoobx

Elmer Derrick **Chief Negotiator**

My fellow Simgiigyet know me as Yoobx. I provide leadership to Wilps Wiighet of Gitsegukla.

My critical education was what I learned from the elders in the Gitksan communities.

All the men and women that kept me focused have all gone to the other side. When I compare what I learned from the people at home to the formal theory that I learned from institutions of learning, I give thanks for being Gitksan. My working journey has taken me throughout the fishing and forestry industries. I have worked for the Crown through the Governments of Alberta, Canada, and British Columbia. I have taught in high schools in Edmonton along with the Northwest Community College and the University of Northern British Columbia. I have been a guest lecturer in twenty three different colleges and universities across North America and around the world. I have been a board member on college and corporate boards. I have coached hockey, soccer, basketball, and played a lot of billiards.

My political work has enabled me to spend precious moments with aboriginal colleagues around North America. I have worked with most members of the Assembly of First Nations. There are some Gitksan principles that I grew up with that I will die with. Get up with the sun; live within your means; and do unto others as you would have done to you.



GET UP WITH THE SUN; LIVE WITHIN YOUR MEANS; AND
DO UNTO OTHERS AS YOU WOULD HAVE DONE TO YOU.





Gwaans

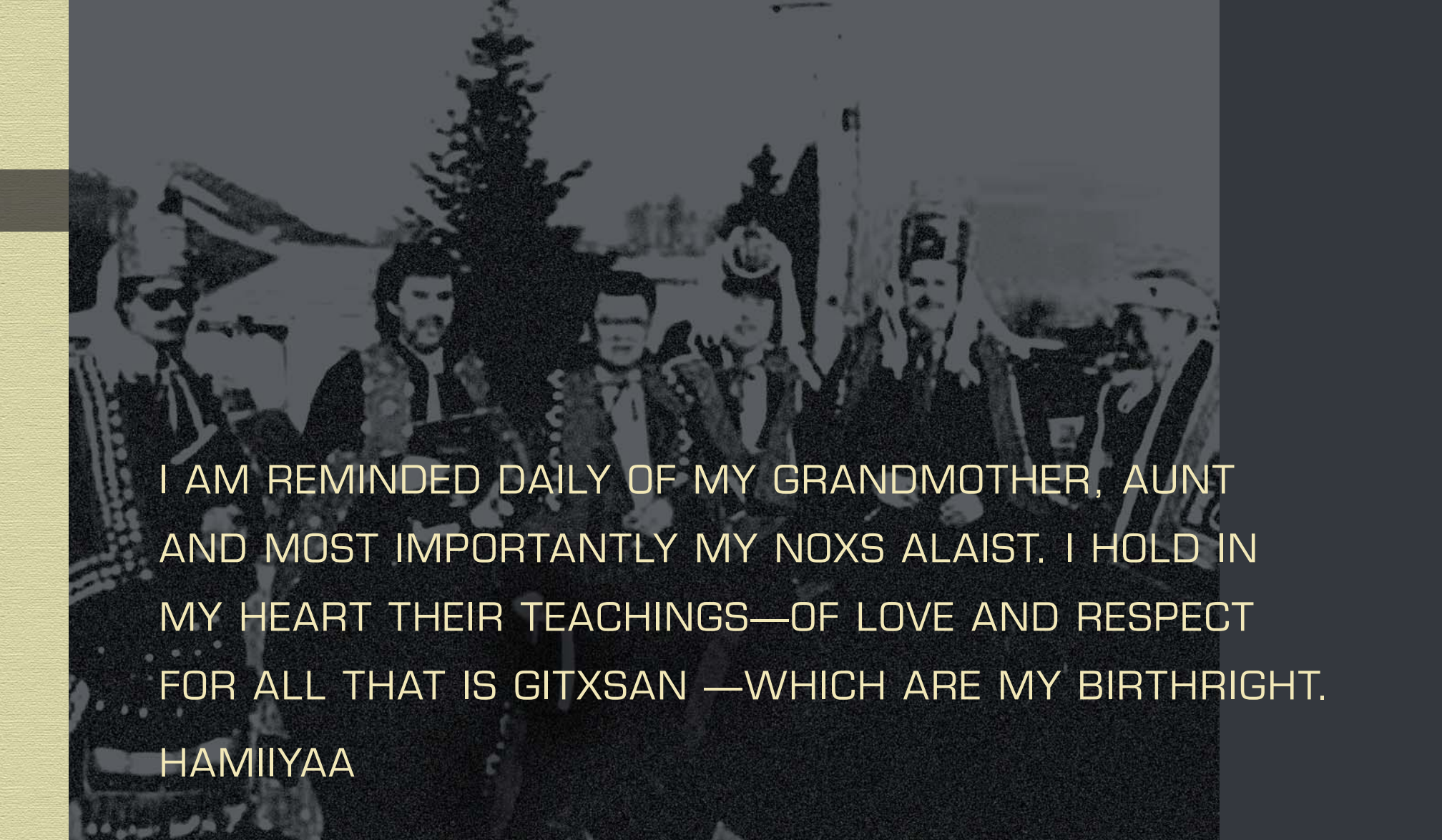
Beverly Clifton Percival **Negotiator**

Simgiigyeyt, Sigimdimhanak and Guubawilsw:

A year has passed and in that time we have seen a lot of exciting new developments, such as:

- *Continued in-depth exploration of a model that accommodates Gitxsan ayookw, decision-making and interests.*
- *Meetings with Minister Michael de Jong, Minister George Abbott, and Minister Chuck Strahl.*
- *Protection of Gitxsan hereditary interests in the "Reconciliation and Recognition" exercise by focusing on the Proper Title Holder.*
- *Cooperation with the media to tell the story of the Gitxsan hereditary system in the courts through Delgamuukw 1997.*
- *Celebration of the 9th Annual Gitxsan Women's Day in Gitsegukla.*
- *A Treaty-Related Measures Proposal to further delineate Gitxsan decision-making, and to define the Gitxsan Collective.*

I am grateful for the ongoing support of Simgiigyeyt and House members as I continue to work to the best of my abilities on behalf of all Gitxsan.



I AM REMINDED DAILY OF MY GRANDMOTHER, AUNT
AND MOST IMPORTANTLY MY NOXS ALAIST. I HOLD IN
MY HEART THEIR TEACHINGS—OF LOVE AND RESPECT
FOR ALL THAT IS GITXSAN —WHICH ARE MY BIRTHRIGHT.

HAMIIYAA





Yoobx

Elmer Derrick Chief Negotiator



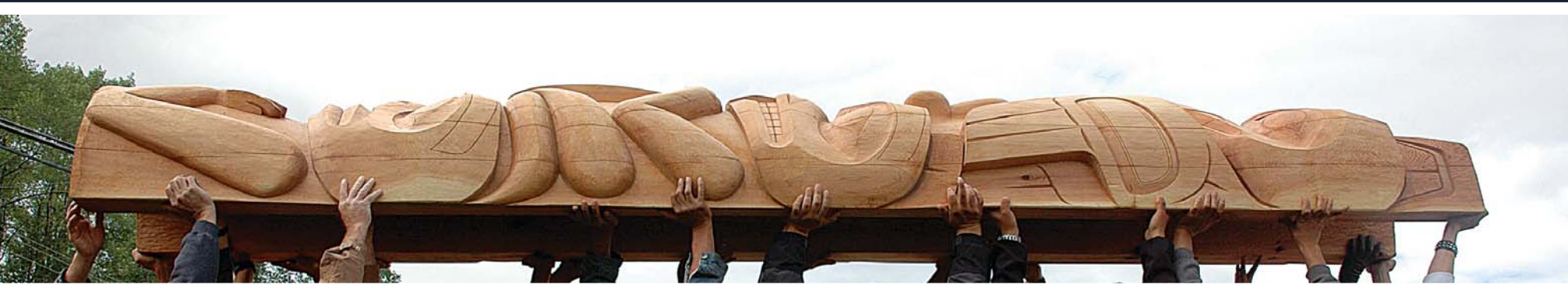
It is time for all Gitksan to wear their blankets.

- The Supreme Court of Canada affirmed in the 1997 Delgamuukw decision that we continue to hold Gitksan title
- The Delgamuukw decision recognized that the Gitksan title holders can decide how to use the land and resources.
- The Supreme Court of Canada affirmed that the Gitksan Chiefs as title holders have the responsibility to protect the Gitksan as they are.
- The Supreme Court of Canada stated that there is an inescapable economic component to Gitksan title

Our blankets symbolize what we as Gitksan hold as title and rights. The Canadian Constitution affirms and recognizes us as Gitksan within Canada and British Columbia. The Supreme Court of Canada also accepted the pleadings of Gitksan Chiefs that appeared before the Court in 1996. The Delgamuukw decision is part of the building blocks of a more civilized Canada.

The Gitksan continue to bring Gitksan Ayookw into action through the feasts. The Sigidimnaak continue to uphold the laws, names, songs, history, feast seats, and other assets - tangible and intangible - for the benefit of coming generations. No one can take these away from us. We will not forfeit any of these assets to the crown.

It is time for all Gitksan to wear our blankets with pride.



- **The Delgamuukw decision clearly recognized the importance of oral history for all aboriginal people and all Canadians**
- **The Supreme Court of Canada affirmed that Gitksan title holders continue to have mineral rights in Gitksan lands**
- **The Supreme Court of Canada gave instructions to reconcile Gitksan pre-existing with Crown title**



Sa'anxgwanks

Barb Huson **Gimlitxwit** Coordinator



My Gitxsan name is Sa'anxgwanks - Wilps Gutguunuux - Wilnahtahl's Anda Ap.

I have recently been blessed with my new Daak, Warren David Huson. What a darling! My husband Dave and I recently went to Winnipeg to visit him. We spent two weeks there and just seeing Warren gave me the energy to come back to do the work that I am doing for the Gitxsan!

I am proud to say that the Gimlitxwit is a governing body that has survived since time immemorial and will continue to flourish into the future. Our daxgyet is with each and every Simoogit and the blanket they wear. The principles of power, respect and honour that are passed on with these blankets are our strength!



Gítxsan Elders took on the task of preparing for the future through their visions and prayers. Part of this responsibility meant observing babies as soon as they were born, assessing their potential.

Hanamuxw (Joan Ryan)



We Honour

Miluulak Alice Jeffrey

Miluulak, as told by my mother, means 'the ghost of the thunderbird.' I have held this title for thirty one years.

My Father and Mother were very involved in the National Native Brotherhood and they taught me to be involved in the betterment of our people.



come join us in honouring Miluulak



at the banquet on Thursday evening.



Xsi 'Osxw

Cameron Stevens

Gitxsan Forestry Enterprises Inc., Director of Forestry



We are still on the right path.

I accepted the position of General Manager of GFEI in July 2010 and started work on August 17, 2010. The Gímlitxwít decided to provide funding to assist with the holding and operating costs for the tenure. I am familiar with many of the challenges of operating a forest licence, as well as the many opportunities it presents. The reason for purchasing this forest licence was so we could be directly involved with planning, management, decision-making, employment opportunities and profit-generating ventures. Although the forest tenure has not yet yielded the benefits we originally anticipated, we are still on the right path provided we remain vigilant in building a forestry business for the future. This means working together as a collective group to bring forward innovative and creative ideas.



The fibre basket in the Kispiox Timber Supply Area (TSA) is one of the most challenging areas to operate in British Columbia as a result of the old decadent hemlock stands. However, this is also a benefit due to the abundance of biomass, or fibre supply, which is currently underutilized. We need to expand the business into areas of value-added manufacturing and bioenergy projects such as pellets, renewable energy (Suskwa Cogen) and central heating for our communities. If we take steps toward establishing an integrated facility for multiple uses, we will be on the right path. As General Manager I want GFEI to be the economic vehicle for the Chiefs, Watersheds, and Huwilp.

If you have any questions about GFEI, we can be reached at (250) 842-5055.



Oo'Yee

Cliff Sampare Sustat Watershed Facilitator



I was hired by the Gitxsan Chiefs Office as a Sustat Watershed Facilitator. In this role I worked closely with the Babine Watershed Facilitator, as the interests of both watersheds are identical. Due to funding availability, this was a short term position.

In November of 2008, both the Babine and Sustat Simgiigyet passed a motion that we find the ways and means to revitalize Gisega'as Village for its original owners, the Gisega'as Simgiigyet. As a result of this motion I was hired as the Gisega'as Revitalization Director. The process was very cumbersome due to the many obstacles that we faced, but the Chiefs were very patient.

The good news is that on July 16, 2010, the Hereditary Chiefs of Gisega'as Village successfully applied in court to participate as parties in a lawsuit in order to defend their rights, including title, to the village. With the help and recommendations of Simoogyet 'Wii eelaast, I am presently assisting each simoogyet to prepare for this court case on behalf of their own huwilp. All parties, including the federal Crown, have been served, and as of now, we are patiently waiting for the federal Crown to file a defence to our counterclaim. We have agreed not to force the issue, as that could result in a blank denial without any detail.

On behalf of the Gisega'as Simgiigyets I would like to thank the board members for standing behind us throughout this process.

With Cameron Stevens' recent move to the position of General Manager of the GFEI, I have assumed some of his previous responsibilities, particularly communication with outside parties planning developments on Gitxsan lax yip.



On August 16, 2010, I was given a new position as Watershed Accommodation Clerk. Among other things, in this capacity I will be writing reports on all important meetings that I attend, and will inform the appropriate parties on issues requiring immediate attention. My other mandate is to keep Northgate Minerals Corporation's new, proposed Kemess North mine open to the Gitxsan. They have already tried to exclude us from the process, but with the assistance of the Aboriginal Relations Board in Victoria, we managed to get back on board.

If you wish to meet me in person, I'd be more than happy to accommodate your request.

AMAAYA



Nii Jiip

Vivian Smith Health Director

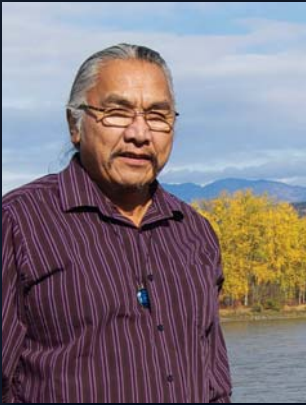


My origin is wilps Tzim Ghak, Gisgega'as. My main responsibility here at the Gitxsan Chiefs' Office is to oversee the health of the Gimplitxwit while attending meetings and assisting the Gimplitxwit Coordinator. My specialty is Community Health and I work diligently as a team with all our community resource people and organizations to address the Gimplitxwits' health issues and concerns of our nation.



Hlaa mukhl sím maa'y.
The blue berries are ripe.

Yuk díim sayt txookw'm.
We are all going to eat together.



Wii Muk'wilixw

Art Wilson Communications Director



Hello to all of you. I am grateful to be working for all Gitxsan. I have watched Gitxsan politics since the days of Harold Sinclair, Peter Williams and Chris Harris. I later watched firsthand the debates of Albert Tait, Stanley Williams, Mary Johnson and Walter Wilson in the early 1970s. They looked at the state of the Gitxsan and wanted to build a legacy for the future of their people.

These leaders talked in terms of 'Naa Hisyadja to remind themselves that what we want is to be Gitxsan forever. But before that could happen, the status quo needed to change. We demanded:

- That we no longer be caged up like pigs (from Mary Johnson's quotable quote).
- That we be recognized (Hereditary Chiefs, house members and all our assets).

- That the Crown and the courts acknowledge that this “recognition” is of paramount importance to those of us left behind, as well as future generations.

The intent of those Gitksan leaders was to foster the changes in Government policy that we see today. The most notable being the now famous Delgamuukw decision. A part of this continued ‘Naa Hisyadja gives us hope. On a weekly basis, in the Interior News, I try to convey to you how the work of the Gitksan organization continues to stay true to those ideals.

The real focus of my work is Alternate Governance. Essentially, Alternate Governance is “us,” and I’m proud that our negotiators are not straying from that ‘Naa Hisyadja of those Hereditary Chiefs of the early 70s.



What I bring to my job is that I’ve seen it all firsthand. I sat with the Hereditary Chiefs in their CATS committee (Chiefs Advisory). I also served on the Litigation Team that looked at which lawyers we’d use, came up with strategies for raising money, examined the remedies sought and organized the plaintiffs accordingly. In my position, I cover what today’s Hereditary Chiefs, the GTS board and the Watersheds are doing.

Those of us who work here have heard from many of you. We understand that you want us to do the right thing and demonstrate that we are not straying from that all important ‘Naa Hisyadja, hence our theme, “It is Time to wear our Blankets.”



Archive

Bonnie Mowatt **Archive Director**

My name is Bonnie Mowatt, 'Wisinseexw. I belong to the house of Delgamuukw. I am now the Archive Director at the Gitxsan Archive Building and my heart is with this work. I love listening to the elders and I enjoy the sense of humour that some had when they were being interviewed, it renews my spirit.

I am speaking our language more and I teach my children and my nephews and nieces a few phrases as well.

The Archive building is under renovations so that the documents and media can be accessed for the future generations to come.

Gitxsan Artist Michelle Stoney from the house of Delgamuukw was



commissioned to do the wall panel and table at the Archive building.



Limix – The Traditional Songs

All house members have to start learning their house songs.

Ayook – Our Laws

We need to know the Gitxsan Laws.

Lax Yip

Know where your lax yip is located and spend time on your lax yip.

Ayook Team

From left to right: **Gitluudaahlxw** Alvin Weget,
Axgigii'ii Sadie Mowatt, **Denii** Fern Weget,
'Wii Xsgyaak Rennie Wright,
'Niist David Blackwater





Territory Trip with the Negotiators

The *Gitxsan governance system* is taught continually from birth. Every child learns about their responsibilities to themselves, to family and to community. At a certain age, Gitxsan children are expected to exercise free will and they are given the opportunity to assume more responsibility. As they advance in the Gitxsan governance system, they learn to place their personal interests behind those of the community.



Door Prize Donations Gitxsan Summit 2010

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Community Action Bingo

Cybernet Communications LTD.

Doug Donaldson, MLA

Fields Store - New Hazelton

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Gitxsan Child & Family Services

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Gitxsan Unlocking

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Gitxsan Watershed Authority

Larkspur Floral

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Village of Hazelton



Thank you all for your wonderful support!



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